

2014 Indian general election

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General elections were held in [India](#) in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May 2014 to elect the members of the [16th Lok Sabha](#).^[1] With 834 million registered voters, they were the largest-ever elections in the world until being surpassed by the [2019 election](#). Around 23.1 million or 2.71% of the total eligible voters were aged 18–19 years.^[2] A total of 8,251 candidates contested the 543 elected [Lok Sabha](#) seats.^[3] The average election turnout over all nine phases was around 66.40%, the highest ever in the history of Indian general elections until 2019 election.^[3]

The results were declared on 16 May, 15 days before the 15th Lok Sabha completed its constitutional mandate on 31 May 2014.^[4] The counting exercise was held at 989 counting centers.^[3] The [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) (BJP) received 31% of the vote and won 282 seats, while its [National Democratic Alliance](#) (NDA) won a total of 336 seats. Although the Indian National Congress (INC) was defeated by a [landslide](#), the BJP's vote share was the lowest by a party winning a majority of seats since independence,^[5] The BJP won 31.2% votes, while [NDA](#)'s combined vote share was 38.5%. However, the governing coalition had the largest majority since the [1984 elections](#), and it was the first time since 1984 that a party had won enough seats to govern without the support of other parties.^{[6][7][8]}

In contrast, the result was the worst-ever performance by the [Indian National Congress](#) (INC), which had ruled India for most of its post-independence history. The INC received 19.3% of the vote and won only 44 seats, with its wider alliance, the [United Progressive Alliance](#), winning a total of just 59.^{[9][10][11]} In order to become the official opposition party in India, a party must have 55 seats; as a result, there was no [official opposition party](#).^{[12][13]}

Background

[\[edit\]](#)

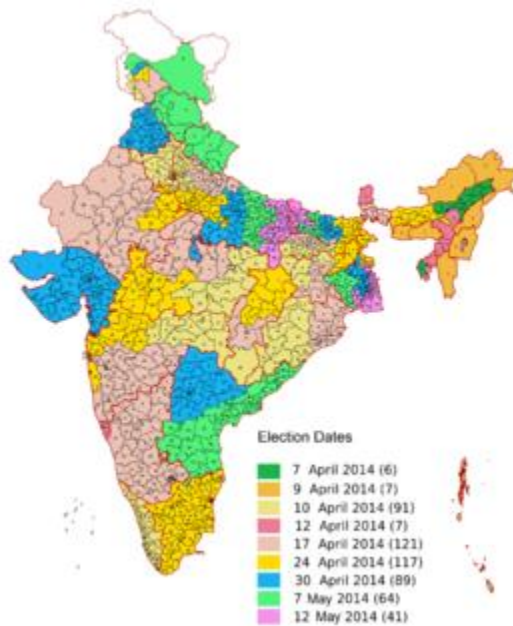
As per the requirements of the Indian Constitution, [elections to the Lok Sabha](#) must be held at an interval of five years or whenever parliament is dissolved by the [president](#). The [previous election](#), to the [15th Lok Sabha](#), was conducted in April–May 2009, and its term would have naturally expired on 31 May 2014. The election to the 16th Lok Sabha was organised and conducted by the [Election Commission of India](#) (ECI) and was held in multiple phases, to better handle the large electoral base and security concerns.

Since the last general election in 2009, the [anti-corruption movement](#) by [Anna Hazare](#), and other similar moves by [Baba Ramdev](#) and [Arvind Kejriwal](#) (founder of [Aam Aadmi Party](#)), gathered momentum and political interest.^[14] Kejriwal went on to form a separate political party, Aam Aadmi Party, in November 2012. The [2012 presidential election](#) resulted in [Pranab Mukherjee](#) of [Indian National Congress](#) becoming the president. Andhra politics was further shaken following the death of its [chief minister](#), [Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy](#). His son, [Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy](#), then broke from the [INC](#) and founded the [YSR Congress Party](#), taking several politicians with him.

The final session of parliament started on 6 February and ended on 21 February. Amongst the agenda in the final session was passing [The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013](#) in tackling corruption and the creation of Telangana.^[15]

Organisation

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Dates of 2014 general election

Spending limit

[\[edit\]](#)

The Cabinet of India revised the limit of election expenditure by a candidate for parliamentary constituencies to ₹7 million (US\$81,000) in bigger states and to ₹5.4 million (US\$62,000) in smaller states and all union territories except Delhi.^[16] This revision of the ceiling on the elections were attributed to the increase in the number of electors and polling stations as well as the increase in the cost inflation index.

Accessibility

[\[edit\]](#)

[Satyendra Singh](#), a doctor with a disability,^[17] showed the lack of preparedness by the Election Commission of India (ECI) towards electors with disabilities through the [Right to Information Act](#).^[18] The Chief Electoral Officer in Delhi, Vijay Dev then started a campaign on providing accessibility for the disabled, along with him. Singh conducted sensitisation workshops for election officers and helped in setting up a registration link for voters with disabilities to register to vote and provide their requirements.^[19]

Election Schedule

[\[edit\]](#)

The [Chief Election Commissioner of India](#) (CEC), [V. S. Sampath](#), announced the polling schedule on 5 March. Voting was scheduled to be held in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May, and the results of the election were announced on 16 May.^{[20][21]} Simultaneous [elections](#) were held for the [Vidhan Sabha](#) of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Sikkim.^[22]

Phase-wise polling constituencies in each state hide

State/Union territory	Total constituencies	Election dates and number of constituencies								
		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	Phase 8	Phase 9
		7 April	9 April	10 April	12 April	17 April	24 April	30 April	7 May	12 May
Andhra Pradesh	42							17	25	
Arunachal Pradesh	2		2							
Assam	14	5			3		6			
Bihar	40			6		7	7	7	7	6
Chhattisgarh	11			1		3	7			
Goa	2					2				
Gujarat	26							26		
Haryana	10			10						
Himachal Pradesh	4								4	
Jammu and Kashmir	6			1		1	1	1	2	
Jharkhand	14			5		5	4			
Karnataka	28					28				
Kerala	20			20						

Madhya Pradesh	29		9	10	10				
Maharashtra	48		10	19	19				
Manipur	2	1		1					
Meghalaya	2	2							
Mizoram	1	1							
Nagaland	1	1							
Odisha	21		10	11					
Punjab	13					13			
Rajasthan	25			20	5				
Sikkim	1			1					
Tamil Nadu	39				39				
Tripura	2	1		1					
Uttar Pradesh	80		10	11	12	14	15	18	
Uttarakhand	5						5		
West Bengal	42			4	6	9	6	17	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1		1						
Chandigarh	1		1						
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1					1			
Daman and Diu	1					1			
Delhi	7		7						

[Lakshadweep](#)

1

1

[Puducherry](#)

1

1

Constituencies	543	6	7	92	5	122	117	89	64	41
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Total states/UTs polling on this day	2	5	14	3	13	12	9	7	3
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Total constituencies by end of phase	6	13	105	110	232	349	438	502	543
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% complete by end of phase	1%	2%	19%	20%	43%	64%	81%	92%	100%
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	States/UTs	Constituencies
Number of states and UTs polling in single phase	21	167
Number of states and UTs polling in two phases	5	92
Number of states and UTs polling in three phases	5	116
Number of states and UTs polling in five phases	2	48
Number of states and UTs polling in six phases	2	120
Total	35	543

Result **16 May 2014**

Campaign

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Campaigning in the 2014 Indian general election](#)

Issues

[\[edit\]](#)

Important issues during the campaign included high inflation, lack of jobs, economic slow down, corruption, security and terrorism, religious division and communalism, and infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water.^{[23][24][25]} In a survey by [Zee News](#), inflation was indicated to be the main issue in the election.^[26]

Economy

[\[edit\]](#)

[Bloomberg](#) highlighted India's slowing economy amidst a record high [current account](#) deficit and a falling [rupee](#) in summer 2013. It pointed out a lack of infrastructure investment and a government increasingly likely to give subsidies that the national finances cannot afford just before the election. Other points it mentioned were stagnant policymaking and an inefficient bureaucracy.^[27] The economy was the main issue in the campaign.^[28] The lack of a clear mandate as a result of the election could lead to an increase in the price of gold in the country.^{[29][30]} Modi also brought up the issue of [farmer suicides](#) that resulted from high debt and poor yield on their crops.^[31] Former Finance Minister [Yashwant Sinha](#) criticised the incumbent Chidambaram in saying that he had a "habit that he will get a strong economy, and he will ruin it before he leaves... Shri Chidambaram will be remembered in history as a spoiler, as someone who specialises in sub-five per cent growth rate, for his hubris, arrogance".^[32]

Price rise

[\[edit\]](#)

The price of onions, a staple in [Indian cuisine](#), faced a dramatic increase.^[33] In the lead up to the election, [consumer price inflation](#) increased more than expected while, paradoxically, [industrial production](#) fell by more than expected, causing a dilemma amid slowing growth.^[34] The price of salt was also indicative of general [food inflation](#).^[35]

Corruption

[\[edit\]](#)

See also: [List of scandals in India](#)

During the UPA-2 government, a number of scams came to public attention, deteriorating the image of the government among the common man.^[*citation needed*] These scams included [coal scam](#), [2G spectrum case](#), [AgustaWestland Chopper scam](#) and [CWG scam](#).^[*citation needed*]

Celebrity candidates

[\[edit\]](#)

Celebrity candidates from non-political spheres were nominated in the election. These included: [Raj Babbar](#) (INC), [Bhaichung Bhutia](#) (AITC), [Biswajit Chatterjee](#) (AITC), [Sandhya Roy](#) (AITC), [Smriti Irani](#) (BJP), [Jaaved Jaaferi](#) (AAP), [Prakash Jha](#) (JD(U)), [Mohammad Kaif](#) (INC), [Kamaal Rashid Khan](#) (SP), [Vinod Khanna](#) (BJP), [Ravi Kishan](#) (INC), [Kirron Kher](#) (BJP), [Bappi Lahiri](#) (BJP), [Hema Malini](#) (BJP), [Mahesh Manjrekar](#) (MNS), [Bhagwant Mann](#) (AAP), [Nandan Nilekani](#) (INC), [Gul Panag](#) (AAP), [Jaya Prada](#) (RLD), [Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore](#) (BJP), [Paresh](#)

[Rawal](#) (BJP), [Rakhi Sawant](#) (RAP), [Indranil Sen](#) (AITC), [Moon Moon Sen](#) (AITC), [Vijay Kumar Singh](#) (BJP), [Shatrughan Sinha](#) (BJP), [P. C. Sorcar Jr.](#) (BJP), [Babul Supriyo](#) (BJP), [Manoj Tiwari](#) (BJP), [Innocent Vincent](#) (LDF-IND), [Nagma](#) (INC), [Dev](#) (AITC), and [Siddhanta Mahapatra](#) (BJD).^{[36][37][38][39]}

Parties and alliances

[\[edit\]](#)

National Democratic Alliance

[\[edit\]](#)

See also: *[List of National Democratic Alliance candidates in the 2014 Indian general election](#)*

The constituents of the [National Democratic Alliance](#) and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: The NDA garnered an overwhelming number of 336 seats in this election. This has propelled it to form the government in the country.^{[40][41][42][43][44]}

Party	Seats	
	Contested	Won
Bharatiya Janata Party	427	282
Telugu Desam Party	30	16
Shiv Sena	20	18
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	14	0
Shiromani Akali Dal	10	4
Pattali Makkal Katchi	8	1
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	7	0
Lok Janshakti Party	7	6
Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	3	3
Apna Dal	2	2
Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	2	0
Swabhimani Paksha	2	1
Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi	1	0

Party	Seats	
	Contested	Won
Puthiya Needhi Katchi	1	0
Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi	1	0
All India N.R. Congress	1	1
Republican Party of India (A)	1	0
Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	1	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party (Bolshevik)	1	0
Kerala Congress (Nationalist)	1	0
National People's Party	1	1
Naga People's Front	1	1
Mizo National Front	1	0
National Democratic Alliance	543	336

Bharatiya Janata Party

[\[edit\]](#)

Organisation

Gujarat Chief Minister [Narendra Modi](#) was [appointment to lead](#) the [Bharatiya Janata Party](#)'s campaign after a party conclave in Goa.^{[45][46]} This came amid controversy as [L. K. Advani](#) opposed the decision and resigned from his party posts, only to later rescind his resignation.^[47] [Murli Manohar Joshi](#) and [Sushma Swaraj](#) were part of the team for the campaign. [Rajnath Singh](#), [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#) and Lal Krishna Advani were the mentors for the BJP's campaign.^[48] A 12-member committee, led by Modi, was appointed at the Goa conclave which included [M. Venkaiah Naidu](#), [Nitin Gadkari](#), Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister [Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#), Chhattisgarh Chief Minister [Raman Singh](#) and Goa Chief Minister [Manohar Parrikar](#).^[48]

Key leader's constituencies

Modi contested the election from [Varanasi](#) in Uttar Pradesh^[49] and [Vadodara](#) in Gujarat.^[50] In Varanasi, the sizeable Muslim minority population was viewed by the media as an important voter target and the BJP's minority cell leader Salim Mohommad took part in campaigning.^[51] Advani wanted to contest from [Bhopal](#) but later agreed to contest again from his incumbent seat [Gandhinagar](#).^[52] He also rejected a proposal to be appointed to the Rajya Sabha in favour of

running in the election.^[53] Advani was given the Gandhinagar seat because Modi wanted him to contest from Gujarat, according to Rajnath Singh.^[54] Arun Jaitley contested for the *Lok Sabha* for the first time (having previously been a *Rajya Sabha* member)^[55] from [Amritsar](#) against former Punjab Chief Minister Captain [Amarinder Singh](#).^[56] The move was controversial as incumbent MP from Amritsar [Navjot Singh Sidhu](#) was unhappy in not being allocated the constituency. Yet he said that as Jaitley was his "guru" he would accept the decision, but would not run from any other constituency. The reason for not allocating the ticket to Sidhu was said to be because of his spat with the [Shiromani Akali Dal](#) Punjab Chief Minister [Parkash Singh Badal](#) and party President [Sukhbir Singh Badal](#), as well as other BJP personnel.^[57] [Jaswant Singh](#) was denied nomination from [Barmer](#) constituency so he decided instead to contest the seat as an independent.^[58]

Campaign and Issues

Main article: [Bharatiya Janata Party campaign for the 2014 Indian general election](#)

The BJP released its manifesto on 7 April 2014. The party promised to set up a Price Stabilization Fund and to evolve a single 'National Agriculture Market' to check price rise and go for e-Governance, policy-driven governance and simplification of the tax regime to prevent corruption. It wanted to encourage labour-intensive manufacturing, focus on traditional employment bases of agriculture, the upgrade of infrastructure and housing and self-employment opportunities for job creation. Harnessing satellite technology; setting up National Optical-Fibre Network up to the village level; Diamond Quadrilateral project – of [High Speed Train network](#) were among several other things that the party promised.^[59] The Himachal Pradesh BJP attacked the UPA's "one rank, one pension" scheme as an "election stunt," according to the convenor of the BJP's ex-servicemen cell, Brigadier (Retired) Lal Chand Jaswal. The move followed the BJP raising the issue in the previous years and Modi's announcement at an ex-servicemen's rally at [Rewari](#) on 15 September 2013 and at [Sujanpur](#) on 17 February.^[60] Modi also criticised the INC and Rahul Gandhi for giving a ticket to former Maharashtra Chief Minister [Ashok Chavan](#) despite his indictment in the [Adarsh Housing Society scam](#) in Mumbai.^[61] He further criticised Gandhi's comments about his governance of Gujarat at rally in [Bijapur](#).^[62] At a rally in [Gurgaon](#), Haryana, part of the wider National Capital Region, Modi said: "People gave ruling Congress 60 years, I just need 60 months to prove that the BJP is the best option for India" and alleged that the INC was protecting [Robert Vadra](#), the son-in-law of Sonia Gandhi, after he was said to have "sold farmers land" and made money. "Robert Vadra's empty bank account was credited with \$8.30m (Rs 500 million) in just three months. BJP wants answers".^[63] He also criticised the INC's Nandan Nilekani as he had "squandered crores of rupees in giving a unique identity ([Aadhaar](#)) to millions of people, which even the Supreme Court questioned, as it did not address the security concerns".^[64]

Amongst the [social media](#), individuals came up with satirical takes on sports, movies (in Hindi and English) and songs, amongst other things, in support of the BJP campaign slogan that were premised on "*Aab ki baar, Modi sarkar*" ([This time, [we will have a] Modi government]).^[65] Modi was noted for focusing, in his rallies across the country, on the 23 million first-time come-of-age voters.^[66] By the last day of campaigning on 10 May, Narendra Modi had undertaken the largest mass outreach in India's electoral history by travelling about 300,000 km for 437 public meetings in 25 states and 1350 innovative 3D rallies according to the BJP.^[67]

In regards to [foreign relations of India](#), Modi in a rally in Arunachal Pradesh, a state which borders China with a history of border disputes, swore to protect the country^[68] and criticised "Chinese expansionism".^[69] He also highlighted the importance of diplomats discussing issues like trade facilitation and promoting Indian business abroad.^[70]

Others

[\[edit\]](#)

Lok Janshakti Party

[Lok Janshakti Party](#) leader [Ram Vilas Paswan](#) announced on 30 January that the LJP, RJD and INC will jointly contest the election from Bihar's constituencies.^[71] He later announced on 27 February that he will instead join the NDA. LJP contested polls with the BJP and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) on 40 seats with 30 seats for BJP, three seats for RLSP and seven seats for LJP. LJP and RLSP won all the seats allotted to them with BJP winning 22 seats. The election was seen by many BJP leaders as a show of strength after fallout with JD(U). After the election results, Nitish Kumar was forced to resign from the post of Chief Minister after being marginalized to just 2 seats.^[72]

Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam

[Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam](#) (DMDK), led by Tamil film actor [Vijayakanth](#) joined the NDA on 26 February.^[73]

Lok Satta Party

On 10 April, while campaigning in Telangana, [Jayaprakash Narayan](#) of the [Lok Satta Party](#) stated that while his party had a few differences of opinion with the BJP manifesto, they had decided to support the NDA in the "national interest".^[74] On the other hand, Dr. [Jayaprakash Narayan](#) contested from the [Malkajgiri](#). Malkajgiri had 2,953,915 eligible voters in the election making it the largest parliamentary constituency of the country in terms of number of voters.^[75]

Shiv Sena, Swabhimani Paksha and Rashtriya Samaj Paksha

The [Swabhimani Paksha](#) (SWP) a political party of [Swabhimani Shetkari Saghtana](#) (SSS) joined the [Shiv Sena](#)-BJP-[Republican Party of India \(A\)](#) alliance in February. The SSS, which represents the interests of farmers in western [Maharashtra](#) was offered two seats – Madha in Solapur, where NCP leader Sharad Pawar sits, and Hathkanangale, the seat of SSS leader Raju Shetti. Shetti also sought Baramati but this was rejected by the Shiv Sena and BJP, who decided to leave a seat each from their quotas of 22 and 26 to accommodate SSS.^[76] [Rashtriya Samaj Paksha](#) also joined the alliance in January.^[77] In addition to the aforementioned four parties that were contesting from Maharashtra, RSP was also in the alliance.^[78]

Shiromani Akali Dal

[Shiromani Akali Dal](#) contested 10 out of 13 seats in [Punjab](#).

United Progressive Alliance

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [List of United Progressive Alliance candidates in the 2014 Indian general election](#)

The constituents of the [United Progressive Alliance](#) and the seats they contested and won are shown at the right in the table: This election turned out to be an unprecedented disaster for the UPA as they garnered the lowest number of seats in their history.

Party	Seats	
	Contested	Won
Indian National Congress ^[79]	464	44
Rashtriya Janata Dal ^{[80][81]}	28	4
Nationalist Congress Party ^{[82][83]}	23	6
Rashtriya Lok Dal ^[84]	8	0
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha ^{[85][86]}	4	2
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference ^[87]	3	0
Mahan Dal ^[84]	3	0
Indian Union Muslim League ^[88]	2	2
Socialist Janata ^[88]	1	0
Kerala Congress (M) ^[88]	1	1
Bodoland People's Front ^[89]	1	0
United Progressive Alliance	538	59

In March, the INC, RJD and NCP announced that they would jointly contest in Bihar.^[90] The INC contested 12 seats, NCP fought on 1 seat and the RJD, being a regional party, would seek the rest of 27 seats.

Indian National Congress

[\[edit\]](#)

The [Indian National Congress](#) had announced, on the fourth anniversary of the second [United Progressive Alliance](#) government, that its campaign for the election would be led by incumbent Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#), INC chairperson [Sonia Gandhi](#) and general secretary [Rahul Gandhi](#).^[91] Rahul Gandhi was appointed to head a six-member committee to formulate and implement alliances, the party manifesto and general publicity for the election.^[92]

In response to sagging opinion poll numbers for the general election, the INC sought to fast-track a decision on [separating Telangana from Andhra Pradesh](#), create a coalition government with the [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha](#) and the [Rashtriya Janata Dal](#) in Jharkhand, sought to take credit for the [Food Security Bill](#) and passing Land Acquisition Bill.^[93]

Prime Minister candidate

Incumbent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that he would not return to his role should the INC get a majority or plurality.^[94] Rahul Gandhi told [Dainik Bhaskar](#) that he was "ready to take charge" of any responsibility the party gave him and he added that: "My focus for India is a long term vision, where all Indians are treated with equality, respect and are given equal opportunities."^[95] At the party meeting it was decided not to name a prime ministerial candidate amid fears it would turn the election into a presidential one. This was criticised by the BJP. Gandhi would instead lead the party's campaign.^[96] He also called the election a turning point.^[97] Sonia Gandhi then said that the party will face upcoming challenges and the election with a "lot of determination;" she added that the election would be a battle for India. "Divisive forces are stretching social fabric to breaking point. Opposition's way is to spread disharmony. There's a face hidden behind the mask of compassion."^[98]

Rahul Gandhi

In January, in an interview, Gandhi admitted that some Congress members may have been involved in the [1984 anti-Sikh riots](#) and further stated that Modi's government was responsible for pushing the [2002 riots](#) while the Congress government in 1984 tried to stop the [anti Sikh riots](#).^[99] Fellow UPA member, [Praful Patel](#) said that the 2002 matter should be put to rest.^[100] As Gandhi was reported to have sought an early declaration of the party's candidates, the INC was scheduled to hold its first meeting of the central election committee on 13 February to finalise all their candidates by the end of the month. Similarly, the screening committees for several unnamed part of the country had already occurred so as to shortlist the candidates.^[101] On 8 March, its list of 194 candidates was announced, including 35% of candidates that were below the age of 50 years.^[102] The INC was reported to be concerned by the possibility of a reduced mandate in Gandhi's seat of [Amethi \(Lok Sabha constituency\)](#) amidst an unusual challenge by his high-profile competitor, the BJP's Smriti Irani. It even led to his mother, [Sonia](#), campaigning there for the first time in 10 years.^[103]

Opinion polls

The INC dismissed the opinion polls pointing to a NDA plurality as misleading and partisan.^[104] In its manifesto the party promised "[inclusive growth](#)" and that it would initiate a raft of welfare schemes, including a right to healthcare for all and pensions for the aged and disabled.^[105] Manmohan Singh, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi's INC campaigning included scheduled stops in Odisha^[106] and, on 20 April, in Maharashtra prior to the third phase.^[107] Rahul Gandhi claimed in a rally in Chhattisgarh that Modi would "divide the nation into pieces, and make people fight against each other."^[108]

Media

During the election, former prime ministerial aide Sanjaya Baru published "[The Accidental Prime Minister: The Making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh](#)" in which he criticised Singh as not being fully in charge of his government in having to compete with the dynastic INC leader, Sonia Gandhi,

for influence within his own cabinet. Singh's office retorted in saying it is "smacks of fiction and coloured views of a former adviser."^[109] After Baru said "it is no secret that Sonia Gandhi was the super prime minister," Priyanka Vadra replied "I think Manmohan Singh ji is the super PM."^[110]

Others

[\[edit\]](#)

Jammu & Kashmir National Conference

Minister for New and Renewable Energy and [Jammu & Kashmir National Conference](#) chairman [Farooq Abdullah](#), controversially, told a rally in Srinagar that in regards to Modi becoming prime minister "if it happens then Kashmir will not remain a part of India. I say it publicly. Kashmiris will not accept a communal person". He added before going to a scheduled rally in [Magam](#) that "those who vote for Modi should drown themselves in sea".^[111]

Nationalist Congress Party

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was in alliance with the INC in the states of Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.^{[81][112][113]}

Rashtriya Janata Dal

[Rashtriya Janata Dal](#) leader Lalu Prasad Yadav said of the BJP's ruling chances that "Modi and Advani can never become the prime minister in their lifetime. Secular forces in this country would never allow the saffron outfit to come to power". In relation to the INC's Rahul Gandhi he said that Gandhi wants to bring change to the country; he added in relation to Digvijay Singh that he was a "good man".^[114]

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

[Jharkhand Mukti Morcha](#) (JMM) contested polls in alliance with INC and RJD in [Jharkhand](#).^[115] JMM and INC contested in four and ten seats each, respectively. JMM leader [Shibu Soren](#) will run from [Dumka](#), while the other three party's seats could come from Rajmahal, Giridih and the purpose-built city of Jamshedpur.^[116]

Left parties

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [List of Communist Party of India \(Marxist\) candidates in the 2014 Indian general election](#)

Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Communist Party of India

The [Communist Party of India \(Marxist\)](#) declared their campaign slogan as "Reject Congress, Defeat BJP."^[117] On 3 April, the party published its fourth list of candidates for a total of 94 candidates.^[118]

In West Bengal, CPI (M) contested as part of the [Left Front](#). 32 out of the 42 Left Front candidates in West Bengal came from the CPI (M), while 20 of its candidates were running for the first time.^[119] In Kerala, the CPI (M) contested as a constituent of the [Left Democratic Front](#). In the list of the 15 CPI

(M) candidates in Kerala released in mid-March, four were incumbent *Lok Sabha* members and five others were independents.^{[clarification needed][120][121]} The Kollam seat was allocated to [M. A. Baby](#) after the [RSP](#) left the LDF and joined the [United Democratic Front](#).^[122]

In Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, the CPI (M) made an electoral pact with the CPI and other left parties.^{[which?][123][124][125][126][127][128][129]} In Andhra Pradesh, however, no agreement could be reached between the CPI (M) and the CPI due to differences on the Telangana issue; CPI (M) opposed bifurcation, while the CPI supported creating Telangana.^[130] In Telangana region, CPI contested one seat (in alliance with Indian National Congress^[131]), while CPI (M) contested two seats.

Other parties

[\[edit\]](#)

Aam Aadmi Party

The [Aam Aadmi Party](#) (AAP), formed in 2012, contested 432 seats and won 4 seats.^[132] The party's manifesto focused on anti-corruption measures.^[133] Earlier in 2013, the party had made an impressive electoral debut by winning the second highest number of seats in the [Delhi Legislative Assembly elections](#). After forming a short-lived [minority government](#) in Delhi, AAP was seen as a major challenger to the other political parties.^[134] However, the party lost deposits on 413 seats,^[132] surpassing the record of [Doordarshi Party](#), which had lost deposit on 321 seats in 1991.^[135] AAP's leader [Arvind Kejriwal](#) unsuccessfully contested against the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi from [Varanasi](#).^[136] Its spokesperson [Prashant Bhushan](#) argued that AAP's national debut performance was better than that of the winning party BJP in its first national elections in 1984.^[137]

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

The [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#) (AIADMK) opted not to join any alliance and contested all seats in the state of [Tamil Nadu](#) and the union territory of [Puducherry](#) on its own.^[138] Party General Secretary [J. Jayalalithaa](#) told a March rally that she would modernise the armed forces by enhancing their capabilities so that they were on par with the superpowers. In saying so, she criticised the UPA's governance, including its economic, diplomatic, and defence policies, adding that the modernization of the armed forces was hindered by the steady curtailment of its funding.^[139] The party won an unprecedented 37 out of the 40 parliamentary constituencies it contested and emerged as the third-largest party in the [16th Lok Sabha](#) of the [Indian Parliament](#). It was a massive victory that no other regional political party had ever achieved in the history of general elections.

All India Forward Bloc

Further information: [List of All India Forward Bloc candidates in the 2014 Indian general election](#)

On 21 March, the [All India Forward Bloc](#) released its first list of candidates that covered 38 seats in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi. According to the party's Secretary [Debabrata Biswas](#) the main objective of the party was "to strengthen and unite the Left,

democratic and secular forces to achieve an alternative policy for reconstruction of the country."^{[140][141]} In West Bengal the party contested the election as part of the [Left Front](#).^[119] To defend the two West Bengal seats that it won in 2009, the party decided to field incumbent MP [Narahari Mahato](#) in the [Purulia seat](#) and a new candidate in the [Cooch Behar seat](#).^[140]

Bahujan Samaj Party

On 19 March, [Bahujan Samaj Party](#) (BSP) leader [Mayawati](#) declared that the party would contest the election on its own and fielded candidates in all 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. Mayawati was confident that the BSP would seek a mandate to form a government with support of secular parties.^[142] The party secured the third highest vote share in the Country and yet did not win a single seat.^[143]

Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation

At a press conference held on 10 March, General Secretary of the [party Dipankar Bhattacharya](#) said his party would field 85 candidates in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Puducherry.^[144]

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) opted not to join an UPA pre-poll alliance and contested all seats in Tamil Nadu with its own regional alliance. Party leader Karunanidhi announced Democratic Progressive Alliance (DPA) with local parties like VCK, MMK, IUML and Puthiya Tamizhagam. DMK was not able to secure even a single seat throughout the country.

Janata Dal (United)

The media speculated that Modi still had a chance of gaining in Bihar at the expense of Nitish Kumar's [Janata Dal](#). Whilst the BJP were in coalition with JD(U), Modi was not allowed to speak at rallies in the party by mutual understanding and was only allowed for special events such as a funeral or party conclave, even Modi's flood relief aid to Bihar was termed communal. Bihar was seen as test case for Modi's popularity if the BJP could increase its tally at the expense of the JD(U). There was also speculation that [Lalu Prasad Yadav](#) could make a relative comeback after the [2010 provincial election](#) if he is not convicted over the [fodder scam](#). It also suggested that this would be an eager race as it could determine if Kumar's decision to leave the NDA in June 2013 was prudent and if he has any national political scope left; while for Modi it would give crucial seats to the BJP and be able to attract potential allies as Bihar is largely based on [caste](#) politics.^{[145][146]} In January 2014, Kumar referred to Gandhi's stand against corruption as a "farce" after hearing of a meeting between Gandhi and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav despite Yadav being out on bail, after being convicted in the fodder scam. He termed their alliance as "natural" and stated that them coming together was no surprise.^[147]

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

[Asaduddin Owaisi](#) announced 5 candidates from the [All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen](#) (AIMIM) participated in various parliamentary constituencies of Telangana State. Asaduddin Owaisi - [Hyderabad](#) Narla Mohan Rao - [Secunderabad](#) Divakar Dharanikota Sudhakar - [Malkajgiri](#) P.V.N. Reddy - [Nandyal](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#) (from 2014 onwards) Guahati Mothilal - [Bhongir](#)

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena

The [Raj Thackeray](#)-led [Maharashtra Navnirman Sena](#) (MNS) announced its first list of seven candidates. Six of them contested against candidates of Shiv Sena. The party, however, also supported Modi's prime ministerial candidature. The move read as an implicit acceptance of the BJP's Nitin Gadkari's call not to contest against the NDA and to support its own candidates. ^[148]

Nav Bharat Democratic Party

Nav Bharat Democratic stepped into the political arena with 9 candidates spread across Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The party was established by RK Misra. ^[149]

Samajwadi Party

Samajwadi Party president [Mulayam Singh Yadav](#) claimed that the Third Front government will be formed in the center with the help of his party. ^[150] To counter the "Modi-effect" on other constituencies near Varanasi, Yadav decided to contest from Azamgarh and Mainpuri. ^[151] The party decided not to field any candidates against the INC's Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi from Rai Bariely and Amethi, respectively, in response to the INC's decision not to field any candidates against Mulayam Singh Yadav and Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri and Kannauj, respectively. ^[152]

Sikkim Democratic Front

On 10 March, the [Sikkim Democratic Front](#) declared that its incumbent MP, [Prem Das Rai](#), would run for re-election. The party also released a list of 32 candidates for the [2014 Sikkim Legislative Assembly election](#) that will be held simultaneously with the election. ^[153]

All India Trinamool Congress

[All India Trinamool Congress](#) leader [Mamata Banerjee](#) declared that the party would contest all 42 seats in West Bengal by itself, making this the first occurrence of the party contesting a general election in West Bengal without an alliance with either of the two largest parties, BJP and INC. ^[154] Banerjee told a rally in [Cooch Behar district](#), near the international border with Bangladesh, that she would take up the issue of the [border enclaves](#) upon ascertaining the views of the local people living in the adversely possessed areas. She further noted that she had opposed the central government's agreement in 2011 over the [Teesta treaty](#) of water-sharing between the two countries on the grounds of receding waters affecting drinking water availability. ^[155]

YSR Congress Party

[Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy](#)'s [YSR Congress Party](#) fielded candidates across [Andhra Pradesh](#) (Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra) and some districts of Telangana. ^[156] The party fielded several bureaucrats, businessmen and relatives of politicians for Lok Sabha seats in [Andhra Pradesh](#) (Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra), including D. Kishore Rao, the former secretary of the Gujarat Human Rights Commission. ^[157] In a statement in March, Reddy stated that he would ally himself with whoever would win the election. ^[156]

Surveys and polls

[\[edit\]](#)

Opinion polls

[\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Opinion polling for the 2014 Indian general election](#)

Opinion polls generally showed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to be the front runner in the election with the emergence of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) as the single largest party.

Exit polls

[\[edit\]](#)

The Election Commission of India banned the publication of all [exit polls](#) starting 48 hours before Phase 1 of the election until the end of Phase 9. This was intended to prevent exit polls from earlier phases affecting voter decisions in later phases. The ban ended after the close of Phase 9 voting at 6:30pm IST on 12 May 2014.^{[\[178\]](#)}

Publish Date	Ref	Polling Organisation	NDA	UPA	Other
12 May 2014	^{[181]}	CNN-IBN – CSDS – Lokniti	276	97	148
	^{[181]} ^{[182]}	India Today – Cicero	272	115	156
	^{[181]} ^{[183]}	News 24 – Chanakya	340	70	133
	^{[181]}	Times Now – ORG	249	148	146
	^{[181]} ^{[185]}	ABP News – Nielsen	274	97	165
	^{[181]}	India TV – CVoter	289	101	148
14 May 2014	^{[186]} ^{[187]}	NDTV – Hansa Research	279	103	161
	^{[188]}	CNN-IBN – CSDS	280	97	148
12 May 2014	^{[181]}	Poll of Polls	283	105	149

Controversies

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [Campaigning in the 2014 Indian general election § Controversies](#)

During the course of the campaign, several controversies arose with parties being accused by one another and the [Election Commission of India](#) of violating [Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct](#) that is in force during the election.

In the run-up to the election the [media in India](#) was criticised for its establishment ties between family owners and political parties. It caused self-censorship and editorial dismissals at certain media outlets.^[189]

[India Today](#) temporarily suspended its [CVoter](#) opinion poll in late February after a News Express sting operation suggesting Polling Agencies like Ipsos and CVoter fudged the numbers to show BJP candidate Narendra Modi in the lead.^[190]

Voting

[\[edit\]](#)

In total there were 1.4 million [electronic voting machines](#) in 930,000 voting centres. The [voter-verified paper audit trail](#) (VVPAT) system which enables EVM to record each vote cast by generating the EVM slip, was introduced in 8 constituencies of [Lucknow](#), [Gandhinagar](#), [Bangalore South](#), [Chennai Central](#), [Jadavpur](#), [Raipur](#), [Patna Sahib](#) and [Mizoram](#) as a pilot project.^{[191][192][193][194][195][196][197][198]} Also, [Braille](#) ballot sheets for the blind were arranged at polling stations. The scale of the election required 1.1 million of civil servants and 5.5 million civilian employees to handle the election. It was the first election that had the "[none of the above](#)" option and allowed [Non-Resident Indians](#) to vote; though only in India.^[108] Security was increased during the election, particularly as the [Communist Party of India \(Maoist\)](#) (CPI (Maoist)) called for a boycott of the election.^[199] On 12 April, even though there was no voting this day, a vehicle in Chhattisgarh hit a CPI (Maoist) landmine resulting in the deaths of two bus drivers and five election officials, with four more injured, while travelling from Kutru to Bijapur in preparation for the fifth phase of voting. On the same day, within an hour, they also ambushed a vehicle resulting in the deaths of five paramilitary soldiers in the Darbha forest.^[200] The election was the longest and the most expensive general election in the history of the country, with the Election Commission of India estimating that the election did cost the exchequer ₹ 3500 crore (US\$577 million), excluding the expenses incurred for security and by the individual political parties.^[201] Parties were expected to spend ₹ 30,500 crore (US\$5 billion) in the election, according to the Centre for Media Studies. This was three times the amount spent in the previous election in 2009, and was then the world's second highest after the US\$7 billion spent on the [2012 US presidential election](#).^[202]

The election reportedly boosted the hospitality sector as, according to [ASSOCHAM](#), tourist arrivals from the countries such as the US, UK, France, Singapore and the U.A.E. have gone up by 10–15 percent, while the movement of domestic tourists jumped by 62%.^[203]

Turnout

[\[edit\]](#)

Based on data from Election Commission India^[204]

State/UT	Total Electors	Total Voters	Total Turnout	Total seats
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	269,360	190,328	70.66%	1
Andhra Pradesh	64,938,750	48,358,545	74.47%	42
Arunachal Pradesh	759,387	596,956	78.61%	2
Assam	18,885,274	15,085,883	79.88%	14
Bihar	63,761,796	35,885,366	56.28%	40
Chandigarh (UT)	615,214	453,455	73.71%	1
Chhattisgarh	17,623,049	12,255,579	69.54%	11
Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)	196,617	165,286	84.06%	1
Daman & Diu (UT)	111,827	87,233	78.01%	1
Goa	1,060,777	817,000	77.02%	2
Gujarat	40,603,104	25,824,003	63.60%	26
Haryana	16,097,749	11,495,150	71.41%	10
Himachal Pradesh	4,810,071	3,098,501	64.42%	4
Jammu & Kashmir	7,202,163	3,566,863	49.52%	6
Jharkhand	20,326,743	12,982,940	63.87%	14
Karnataka	46,212,109	31,038,888	67.17%	28
Kerala	24,326,649	17,975,893	73.89%	20
Lakshadweep (UT)	49,922	43,239	86.61%	1
Madhya Pradesh	48,118,040	29,639,796	61.60%	29
Maharashtra	80,717,283	48,718,844	60.36%	48
Manipur	1,774,325	1,412,637	79.62%	2

State/UT	Total Electors	Total Voters	Total Turnout	Total seats
Meghalaya	1,567,241	1,078,058	68.79%	2
Mizoram	702,170	433,201	61.69%	1
Nagaland	1,182,948	1,038,910	87.82%	1
NCT OF Delhi	12,711,236	8,271,766	65.07%	7
Orissa	29,196,041	21,532,275	73.75%	21
Puducherry (UT)	901,357	740,017	82.10%	1
Punjab	19,608,008	13,845,132	70.61%	13
Rajasthan	42,969,447	27,110,044	63.09%	25
Sikkim	370,611	308,967	83.37%	1
Tamil Nadu	55,114,505	40,620,440	73.70%	39
Tripura	2,388,819	2,023,859	84.72%	2
Uttar Pradesh	138,965,820	81,092,302	58.35%	80
Uttarakhand	7,129,939	4,391,890	61.66%	5
West Bengal	62,833,128	51,622,555	82.16%	42
India	834,082,814	554,175,255	66.44%	543

- **Phase 1: 7 April**

Turnout was 75% in Assam and 84% in Tripura.^[205] Assam's INC Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said that "there is no Narendra Modi magic in Assam. The Congress has been winning every form of elections since 2001 in Assam, and we are going to repeat the performance this time." Additionally, the borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan were closed for security reasons.^[206]

- **Phase 2: 9 and 11 April**

The turnouts were recorded at 82.5% in [Nagaland](#), 71% in [Arunachal Pradesh](#), 66% in [Meghalaya](#) and 70% in [Manipur](#).^{[207][208]} [Mizoram](#)'s voting was deferred to 11 April,^[209] where the turnout was 60%.^[210]

- **Phase 3: 10 April**

About 110 million of people were eligible to vote for 91 seats. The turnout was 76% in Kerala, 64% in Delhi, 55.98% in Madhya Pradesh, 54.13% in Maharashtra, 65% in Uttar Pradesh and 66.29% in Jammu.^[199] Kerala and Chandigarh set new voter turnout records. A higher proportion of eligible electors voted in 2014 than in 2009.^[211]

- **Phase 4: 12 April**

Voter turnout set new records or were near record levels with 75% in Goa, 75% in Assam, 81.8% in Tripura and 80.97%^[212] in [Sikkim](#) (including the [2014 Sikkim Legislative Assembly election](#)).^[213] West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee nearly cancelled the polls in her region after initially refusing to changes to the appointments of civil service departments, but was forced to constitutionally do so.^[214]

- **Phase 5: 17 April**

The largest voting day involved nearly 200 million eligible voters,^[215] 1,769 candidates for 121 seat. The voting turnout in Uttar Pradesh was 62%, West Bengal was 80%, over 70% in Odisha, 69% in Jammu and Kashmir, 54% in Madhya Pradesh and 62% in Jharkhand.^[216] Manipur had 74%^[215] and Maharashtra had a 61.7% turnout.^[217] In Karnataka, the average voting was up on 65% against 58% in the previous election, though urban voters were lower.^{[218][219]} In Chhattisgarh, the voter turnout was 63.44% compared to 57.6% in 2009, while Rajasthan recorded a 63.25% voter turnout, compared to 48.09% in 2009.^[220] In Bihar's seven constituencies, the turnout was 56%, compared to 39% in 2009.^[221] In one of six constituencies from Jammu and Kashmir, Udhampur, the turnout of 70% was significantly higher than the 2009 figure of 45%.^[222] Overall across India, the turnout on the day was over 65%^[215] and nearly all constituencies had a higher voter turnout than 2009.^[222]

- **Phase 6: 24 April**

The second largest voting day entailed 180 million eligible voters across 201,735 voting centres to elect 117 members of parliament from 2,098 candidates.^[223] Tamil Nadu set a new voter turnout record for Lok Sabha elections with 73%, while West Bengal experienced the highest voter turnout for the day at 82%.^[224] As compared to that, urban centres such as Mumbai and Chennai saw lower voter turnouts, but bettered their figures from previous years. Mumbai witnessed a 53% turnout, compared to 41% in 2009.^[225] The rural areas of Maharashtra saw over 60% turnout, Madhya Pradesh had 64%, Uttar Pradesh had over 60%, Chhattisgarh had about 66%, Assam had over 70%,^[226] Bihar has about 60%, Jharkhand had 63.4%, Rajasthan had about 60% and Pudhucherry had about 82%.^{[223][227]} One of six constituencies from Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag, had the lowest turnout of 28%, after a boycott call by separatists,^[228] an attack on 22 April that killed three people,^[229] and with thousands of [Kashmiri Pandits](#) protesting in the afternoon that their names were missing from the electoral roll.^[230] As with previous phases, the overall voter turnout for the day was higher than 2009.^[231] In both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the turnout was about 9% higher, while Uttar Pradesh saw a 13% increase.^{[223][226]}

- **Phase 7: 30 April**

The 7th phase of voting entailed about 140 million eligible voters to elect 89 members of parliament from 1,295 candidates in 7 states and 2 Union Territories.^[232] Punjab set a new record in its voter turnout for general elections with 73%.^[233] Gujarat saw the highest jump in voter turnout for the day

with 62% turnout compared to 48% turnout in 2009 Lok Sabha elections. The nine constituencies in West Bengal reported over 81% turnout.^[234] Uttar Pradesh witnessed 57% turnout compared to 48% in 2009, while Bihar saw 60% compared to 52% in 2009.^[232] One of six constituencies from Jammu and Kashmir, eligible to vote in this phase, had the lowest turnout for the day at 26% compared to 25.55% in 2009, after a boycott call by separatists.^[235] Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, which will become India's new state on 2 June 2014, saw nearly 72% turnout to elect Lok Sabha members as well as its first state government.^[234] The aggregate turnout so far in the first 7 phases for 438 parliamentary seats has been 66.20%, significantly more than 57.41% figure in 2009 general elections.^[233]

- **Phase 8: 7 May**

The 8th phase saw voting for 64 Lok Sabha seats in 7 states with 897 candidates competing.^[236] Along with the general elections, polls were also held for the first Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh excluding Telangana region.^[237] The voter turnout was high, with West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh each setting their respective general election voter turnout records. West Bengal recorded 81% polling compared to 78% for 2009.^[236] Andhra Pradesh recorded nearly 76% voter turnout.^[238] Himachal Pradesh saw about 66% turnout compared to 58% for 2009.^[239] Uttarakhand also set a new voter turnout record with 62% compared to 53% in 2009.^[240] The 2 constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir that voted witnessed a 49.9% turnout,^[236] while constituencies of Bihar saw 58% compared to 45% in 2009.^[240] Uttar Pradesh experienced a 55.5% turnout compared to 43.4% in 2009.^[241]

- **Phase 9: 12 May**

The 9th and last phase of voting entailed over 90 million eligible voters to elect 41 members of parliament from 606 candidates in 3 states.^[242] The 6 seats in Bihar saw a voter turnout of 58%, compared to 46% in 2009.^[242] Uttar Pradesh's 18 constituencies witnessed a 55.3% turnout, compared to 46.6% in 2009.^[243] In West Bengal, the 17 constituencies that voted, saw a turnout of about 80% compared to 82% in 2009.^[243]

The 2014 general elections, according to the Election Commission of India, recorded a cumulative total of 66.38% voter turnout, or 551.3 million out of 814 million eligible people casting their vote, according to provisional figures.^[244] The 2014 turnout surpassed India's previous highest voter turnout record of 64% in [1984 general elections](#).^{[242][245]} The voter turnout in 2009 general elections was 58.19%, while 2004 general elections saw a voter turnout of 56.98%.^[245] The 2014 general elections entailed 8,202 candidates competing for 543 seats.^[246]

Re-polls

[\[edit\]](#)

Many locations required re-polling for various reasons. There was re-polling on 9 polling stations in Orissa on 25 April.^{[247][248]} The Election Commission ordered re-polls in 52 polling booths (30 in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, 11 in Uttar Pradesh and 11 in West Bengal) because of complaints of booth capturing, rigging, violence or as demanded by the locals. The re-poll was held on 13 May. In Uttar Pradesh, re-polls were held in 3 polling booths in Muzaffarnagar, 7 in Ferozabad and 1 in Badaun.^{[249][250]} Re-polling also occurred on 14 May in Arunachal Pradesh and on 15 May in the

states of Nagaland and Haryana.^{[251][252][253][254]} The Left parties and BJP alleged mass rigging and booth capturing by Trinamool Congress at thousands of polling stations in West Bengal.^{[255][256][257][258]} AAP demanded re-polling in 108 booths.^{[252][259]}

Congress demanded re-polling at 1,344 polling stations in Nagaland.^[260] Re-polling was done in two polling stations in Tamil Nadu on 10 May and in 3 polling stations in [Andhra Pradesh](#) (Rayalaseema & Coastal Andhra) on 13 May.^{[261][262][263][264]} In Bihar, there was re-polling on 2 polling stations of Sitamarhi on 11 May and 3 polling stations in Muzaffarnagar went to re-polling on 13 May.^{[264][265][266][267]} On 15 May, there was re-polling in one booth in Tamil Nadu, and at 5 booths in West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland.^{[251][268][269][270][271][272][273][274]} It was reported that not a single voter turned up for a re-poll at 5 polling stations in Nagaland on 15 May.^{[275][276]} On 12 May, the Bombay High court declined to order supplementary polling for voters in Maharashtra whose names were missing from the electoral rolls. There were speculated to be as many as 100,000 voters missing from the electoral roll in Pune and as many as 200,000 missing from electoral roll in Mumbai.^{[277][278][279][280][281]}

Voting pattern

[\[edit\]](#)

The BJP secured 39% support from first time voters, while Congress received 19% of the first time votes.^[2] The NDA won 39 of 74 seats where Muslim voters make up between 21 and 95% of the total electorate. The BJP won all 16 seats in Uttar Pradesh. It also secured 5 out of 9 such seats in Bihar. Analyst Saeed Naqvi believes that Amit Shah managed to convince Dalits and OBC voters to elect the BJP as "Muslim appeasers in an atmosphere of perpetual communal tension".^[282]

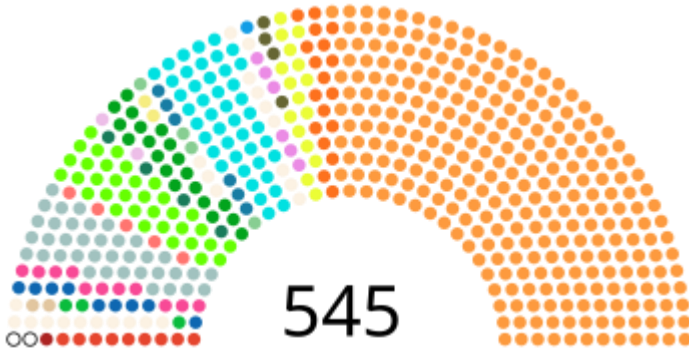
The BJP won all 26 seats in Gujarat, marking the first time a single party won all seats in the state. The previous record was held by the Congress which won 25 of the 26 seats in the 1984 general election.^[283] The assembly segment-wise result of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh shows that the BJP was number one in 328 seats, while the ruling SP led in just 42. Congress was ahead in 15, BSP 9 and Apna Dal 9. In 2012, SP had formed government by winning 224 assembly seats. BSP had won 80, BJP 47, Congress 28 and Apna Dal one.^[284]

Similarly, in Maharashtra BJP-Shiva Sena alliance has got a lead in 246 assembly segments out of the total 288.^[285] By securing seven of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, BJP remained ahead on 52 assembly segments in the state. Its ally HJC could not win any of the Lok Sabha seats it contested, but its candidates remained ahead in seven assembly segments. BJP contested 8 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, leaving two constituencies for its alliance partner HJC. BJP candidates remained ahead in all 27 assembly segments of Ambala, Karnal and Faridabad parliamentary constituencies. BJP won all seats except Rohtak where its candidate Om Prakash Dhankar lost to Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's son and sitting MP Deepender Hooda.^[286]

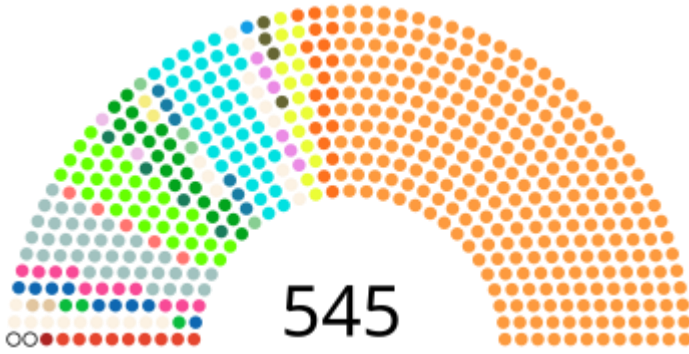
Results

[\[edit\]](#)

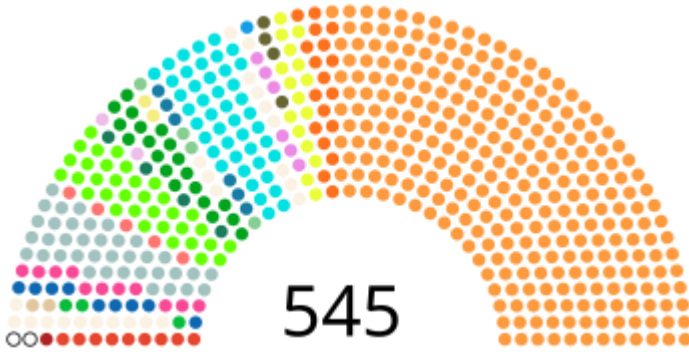
Main articles: [Results of the 2014 Indian general election](#) and [List of members of the 16th Lok Sabha](#)



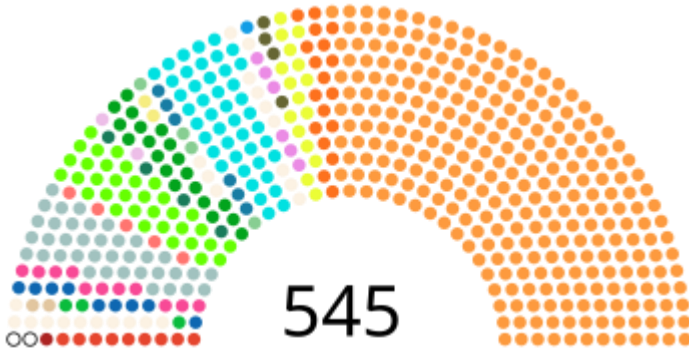
Party	Votes	%	Seats
Bharatiya Janata Party	171,660,230	31.00	282
Indian National Congress	106,935,942	19.31	44
Bahujan Samaj Party	22,946,346	4.14	0
All India Trinamool Congress	21,262,665	3.84	34
Samajwadi Party	18,673,089	3.37	5
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18,111,579	3.27	37
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	17,988,955	3.25	9
Telugu Desam Party	14,099,230	2.55	16
YSR Congress Party	13,995,435	2.53	9
Aam Aadmi Party	11,325,387	2.05	4
Shiv Sena	10,262,544	1.85	18
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	9,631,246	1.74	0
Biju Janata Dal	9,489,946	1.71	20
Nationalist Congress Party	8,635,558	1.56	6
Rashtriya Janata Dal	7,440,937	1.34	4
Telangana Rashtra Samithi	6,736,270	1.22	11
Janata Dal (United)	5,992,281	1.08	2



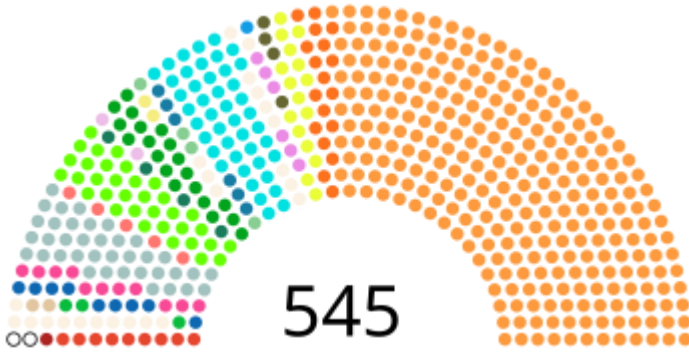
Party	Votes	%	Seats
 Communist Party of India	4,327,460	0.78	1
 Janata Dal (Secular)	3,731,481	0.67	2
 Shiromani Akali Dal	3,636,148	0.66	4
 Indian National Lok Dal	2,799,899	0.51	2
 All India United Democratic Front	2,333,040	0.42	3
 Lok Jan Shakti Party	2,295,929	0.41	6
 Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	2,078,843	0.38	0
 Pattali Makkal Katchi	1,827,566	0.33	1
 Revolutionary Socialist Party	1,666,380	0.30	1
 Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	1,637,994	0.30	2
 Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajanatrik)	1,579,772	0.29	0
 Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1,417,535	0.26	0
 All India Forward Bloc	1,211,418	0.22	0
 Swabhimani Paksha	1,105,073	0.20	1
 Indian Union Muslim League	1,100,096	0.20	2
 Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	1,078,473	0.19	3
 Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	1,007,275	0.18	0



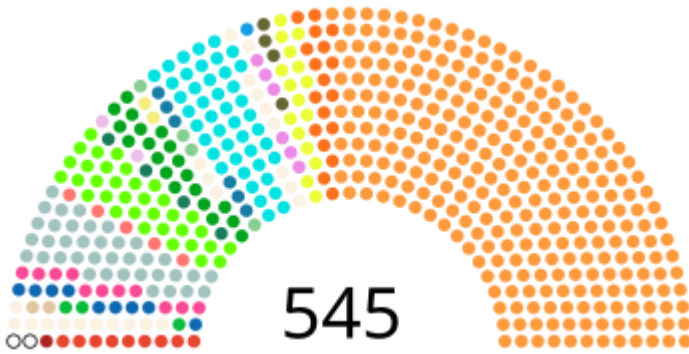
Party	Votes	%	Seats
 Naga People's Front	994,505	0.18	1
 Apna Dal	821,820	0.15	2
 Bahujan Mukti Party	791,951	0.14	0
 Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	732,644	0.13	3
 Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	708,010	0.13	0
 Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	703,698	0.13	0
 Rashtriya Lok Dal	696,918	0.13	0
 All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen	685,730	0.12	1
 Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	606,110	0.11	0
 Asom Gana Parishad	577,730	0.10	0
 National Peoples Party	576,448	0.10	1
 Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	520,972	0.09	0
 Peace Party	518,724	0.09	0
 Peasants and Workers Party of India	497,721	0.09	0
 All Jharkhand Students Union	488,719	0.09	0
 Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	458,580	0.08	0
 Kerala Congress (M)	424,194	0.08	1



Party	Votes	%	Seats
 Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	396,713	0.07	0
 Social Democratic Party of India	396,524	0.07	0
 Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh	360,854	0.07	0
 Quami Ekta Dal	354,577	0.06	0
 Bodoland People's Front	330,106	0.06	0
 Socialist Janata (Democratic)	307,597	0.06	0
 Gondwana Ganatantra Party	301,366	0.05	0
 Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	293,681	0.05	0
 Puthiya Tamilagam	262,812	0.05	0
 All India N.R. Congress	255,826	0.05	1
 Manithaneyi Makkal Katchi	236,679	0.04	0
 Welfare Party of India	228,645	0.04	0
 Jai Bharat Samanta Party	215,607	0.04	0
 Republican Party of India (Athawale)	206,689	0.04	0
 Jai Samaikyandhra Party	204,260	0.04	0
 Jharkhand Party	203,869	0.04	0
 Pyramid Party of India	185,478	0.03	0



Party	Votes	%	Seats
 Ambedkarite Party of India	185,095	0.03	0
 Lok Satta Party	165,670	0.03	0
 Sikkim Democratic Front	163,698	0.03	1
 Aama Odisha Party	155,900	0.03	0
 National Unionist Zamindara Party	124,990	0.02	0
 Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	121,956	0.02	0
 Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party	118,947	0.02	0
 Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Red Star	114,323	0.02	0
 Marxist Co-ordination Committee	110,185	0.02	0
 Jharkhand Disom Party	109,843	0.02	0
 United Democratic Party	106,817	0.02	0
 385 other parties with fewer than 100,000 votes	4,017,081	0.73	0
 Independents	16,737,720	3.02	3
None of the above	6,002,942	1.08	–
Nominated Anglo-Indians			2
Total	553,802,946	100.00	545
Valid votes	553,802,946	99.93	



Party	Votes	%	Seats
Invalid/blank votes	368,873	0.07	
Total votes	554,171,819	100.00	
Registered voters/turnout	834,082,814	66.44	

Source: [ECI](#)

About one-third of all winners had at least one pending criminal case against them, with some having serious criminal cases.^[287] A candidate with criminal case(s) had 13% chance of winning the election, whereas a candidate with a clean record had only 5% chance of winning. (Here, chance of winning = No. of winners in the category/Total no. of candidates in that category.)^[288]

Out of the 542 members analysed, 443 (82%) had total assets of ₹1 crore (US\$120,000) or more. In the [15th Lok Sabha](#), out of 521 members analysed, 300 (58%) members had assets of ₹1 crore (US\$120,000) or more.^[148] The average assets per member are ₹14.7 crore (US\$1.7 million) (in 2009, this figure was ₹5.35 crore (US\$620,000)).

Proportionality

[\[edit\]](#)

The proportionality of parliamentary seats won in the 2014 election, as measured by the [Gallagher index](#), yielded an index score of **17.53**,^[289] indicating a disproportionate outcome that strongly favoured the BJP while being significantly disadvantageous for most other parties and independents.

Results by Region

[\[edit\]](#)

Region	States	Total Seats	Party	Won	Change
Northern ^[290]		118	 Bharatiya Janata Party	92	▲78

Western	Jammu & Kashmir (6) Himachal Pradesh (4) Haryana (10) Punjab (13) Uttarakhand (5) Uttar Pradesh (80)	101	Indian National Congress	6	▼40
			Samajwadi Party	5	▼18
			Shiromani Akali Dal	4	—
			Aam Aadmi Party	4	New
			Jammu & Kashmir People's Democratic Party	3	▲3
			Indian National Lok Dal	2	▲2
			Apna Dal	2	▲2
			Bharatiya Janata Party	75	▲46
			Shiv Sena	18	▲7
			Nationalist Congress Party	4	▼4
			Indian National Congress	3	▼46
			Swabhimani Paksha	1	—
			Bharatiya Janata Party	37	▲24
			Indian National Congress	3	▼23
			All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	37	▲28
Central	Madhya Pradesh (29) Chhattisgarh (11)	40	Bharatiya Janata Party	21	▲2
			Indian National Congress	19	▼41
			Telugu Desam Party	16	▲10
			Telangana Rashtra Samithi	11	▲9
			YSR Congress Party	9	New
			Communist Party of India	5	—
			Indian Union Muslim League	2	—
Southern	Karnataka (28) Telangana (17) Andhra Pradesh (25) Tamil Nadu (39) Kerala (20)	129			

Eastern	Bihar (40) Jharkhand (14) Odisha (21) West Bengal (42)	117		Janata Dal	2	▼1
				Independent Politician	2	▲2
				Communist Party of India	1	—
				Pattali Makkal Katchi	1	▲1
				All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1	—
				Revolutionary Socialist Party	1	▲1
				Kerala Congress	1	—
				Bharatiya Janata Party	37	▲16
				All India Trinamool Congress	34	▲15
				Biju Janata Dal	20	▲6
				Lok Janshakti Party	6	▲6
				Indian National Congress	6	▼9
				Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	—
				Rashtriya Lok Samata Party	3	▲3
				Janata Dal	2	▼18
				Communist Party of India	2	▼7
North-East	Assam (14) Arunachal Pradesh (2) Meghalaya (2) Manipur (2) Mizoram (1)	25		Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2	—
				Nationalist Congress Party	1	▲1
				Bharatiya Janata Party	8	▲4
				Indian National Congress	8	▼5
				All India United Democratic Front	3	▲2

Union Territories	Nagaland (1)	13		Communist Party of India	2	
	Sikkim (1)			National People's Party	1	
	Tripura (2)			Naga People's Front	1	
				Sikkim Democratic Front	1	
				Independent politician	1	1
	Chandigarh (1)			Bharatiya Janata Party	11	7
	Delhi (7)			Nationalist Congress Party	1	1
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1)					
	Daman & Diu (1)					
	Lakshadweep (1)					
	Puducherry (1)			All India N.R. Congress	1	1
	Andaman & Nicobar (1)					
Total	29 States and 7 UT	543				

Summary

[\[edit\]](#)

Region	Total Seats	Bharatiya Janata Party			Indian National Congress			Others		
South India	130	22	22 / 130 (17%)	2	19	19 / 130 (15%)	42	90	40	
West India	78	53	53 / 78 (68%)	26	2	2 / 78 (3%)	27	23	1	
North India	225	190	190 / 225 (84%)	127	8	8 / 225 (4%)	71	27	56	
North-East India	25	8	8 / 25 (32%)	4	8	8 / 25 (32%)	5	9	1	
East India	63	3	3 / 63 (5%)	2	4	4 / 63 (6%)	8	56	5	
Union Territories	22	6	6 / 22 (27%)	5	3	3 / 22 (14%)	9	0		

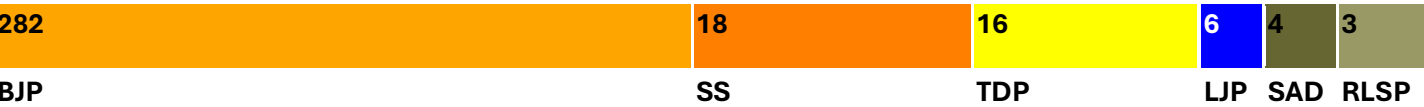
Total 543 282 +166 44 -162 205 +9

Source: Times of India^[291]

By alliance

[edit]

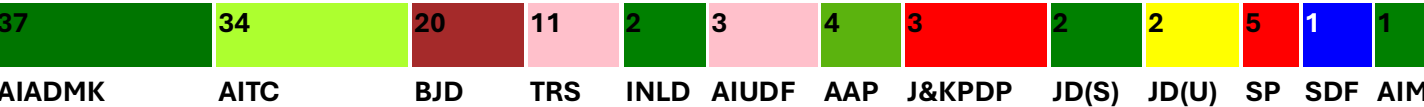
National Democratic Alliance (336)



United Progressive Alliance (60)



Others (147)



By state

[edit]

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	47.8	+3.59	1	0
Indian National Congress	40.8	−1.23	0	0

Andhra Pradesh (25)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Telugu Desam Party (NDA)	29.10	+4.17	15	+9
YSR Congress Party	28.90	+28.90	8	+8
Indian National Congress	11.5	-27.45	0	-19
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	8.50	---	2	+2

Arunachal Pradesh (2)



Party	Seats won
Bharatiya Janata Party	1
Indian National Congress	1

Assam (14)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	36.50	+19.29	7	+3
Indian National Congress	29.60	-4.31	3	-4
All India United Democratic Front	14.80	-2.30	3	+2
Asom Gana Parishad	3.80	-8.81	0	-1
Independent (politician)	---	---	1	+1

Bihar (40)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	29.40	+15.47	22	+10
Lok Janshakti Party (NDA)	6.40	---	6	+6
Rashtriya Janata Dal (UPA)	20.10	+0.80	4	0
Janata Dal (United)	15.80	-8.24	2	-18
Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (NDA)	3.00	---	3	+3
Nationalist Congress Party	1.20	---	1	+1
Indian National Congress (UPA)	8.40	-1.86	2	0
Independent	---	---	0	-2

Chandigarh (1)

1

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	42.20	+19.46	1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.80	-20.07	0	-1
Aam Aadmi Party	24.00	New	0	0

Chhattisgarh (11)

10

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	48.70	-1.09	10	0
Indian National Congress	38.40	+13.67	1	0

Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1)

1

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	48.90	+2.47	1	0
Indian National Congress	45.10	-0.75	0	0

Daman & Diu (1)**1****BJP**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.80%	-11.46	1	0
Indian National Congress	43.30%	+14.29	0	0

NCT of Delhi (7)**7****BJP**

NParty	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	46.40%		7	+7
Indian National Congress	15.10%	-42.01%	0	-7
Aam Aadmi Party	32.90%	+32.90%	0	0

Goa (2)**2****BJP**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.40%	+8.62	2	+1
Indian National Congress	36.60%	-14.00	0	-1

Gujarat (26)

26**BJP**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	59.10%	+12.59	26	+11
Indian National Congress	32.90%	-10.48	0	-11

Haryana (10)**7****2****BJP****INLD**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	34.70%		7	+7
Indian National Congress	22.90%	-18.87	1	-8
Indian National Lok Dal	24.40%		2	+2

Himachal Pradesh (4)**4****BJP**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	53.31%	+3.72	4	+1
Indian National Congress	40.70%	-4.91	0	-1

Jammu and Kashmir (6)**3****3****BJP****JKPDP**

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	34.40%		3	+3
Indian National Congress	22.90%	-1.77	0	-2

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Jammu & Kashmir People's Democratic Party	20.50%		3	+3
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	11.10%	-8.00%	0	-3
Independent	---	---	0	-1

Jharkhand (14)

12

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	40.10%	+12.57%	12	+4
Indian National Congress (UPA)	13.30%	-1.72%	0	-1
Jharkhand Vikas Morcha	12.10%		0	-1
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (UPA)	9.30%	-2.4%	2	0
Independent	---	---	0	-2

Karnataka (28)

17

BJP

JD(S)

INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	43.00%	-1.37	17	-2
Indian National Congress	40.80%	+3.15	9	+3
Janata Dal (Secular)	11.00%	-2.57%	2	-1

Kerala (20)

8

INC

IUML

KC(M)

RSP

CPI(M)

CPI

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	31.10%		8	-5
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	21.60%		5	+1
Communist Party of India	7.60%		1	+1
Indian Union Muslim League	4.50%		2	0
Kerala Congress (M)	2.40%		1	0
Revolutionary Socialist Party			1	+1
Bharatiya Janata Party	10.30%		0	0
IND. (backed by Left Democratic Front)			2	+2

19 July 2018 [Jose K Mani](#) quit the lower house after being nominated to [Rajya Sabha](#).^[1]

Lakshadweep (1)

1

NCP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Nationalist Congress Party	50.10%	+3.79	1	+1
Indian National Congress	46.60%	-5.32	0	-1

Madhya Pradesh (29)

27

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	55.00%	+10.55	27	+10
Indian National Congress	34.90%	-5.24%	2	-9
Bahujan Samaj Party	3.8%	-2.05%	0	-1

Maharashtra (48)

23			18		1
BJP			Shiv Sena		SWP
Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes	
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	27.30%	+9.13%	23	+14	
Shiv Sena (NDA)	20.60%	+3.60%	18	+7	
Indian National Congress (UPA)	18.10%	-1.51	2	-15	
Nationalist Congress Party (UPA)	16.00%	-3.28	4	-4	
Swabhimani Paksha (NDA)	2.30%		1	0	
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	---	---	0	-1	
Independent	---	---	0	-1	

Manipur (2)

2				
INC				
Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	11.90%		0	0
Indian National Congress	41.70%	-1.26%	2	0
Naga People's Front	19.90%		0	0
Communist Party of India	14.00%		0	0

Meghalaya (2)

1			1	
NPP			INC	
Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party (NDA)	8.90%		0	0

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress (UPA)	37.90%	-6.94%	1	0
National People's Party (NDA)	22.20%	+22.20	1	+1
Nationalist Congress Party (UPA)	---	-18.78%	0	-1

Mizoram (1)

1

INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	48.60%	+16.98	1	0

Nagaland (1)

1

NPF

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Naga People's Front (NDA)	68.70%	-1.26	1	0
Indian National Congress	30.10%			0

Odisha (21)

20

BJD

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Biju Janata Dal	44.10%	+6.87	20	+6
Bharatiya Janata Party	21.50%		1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.00%	-6.75	0	-6
Communist Party of India	0.3%	-2.27%	0	-1

Puducherry (1)

1

All India N R Congress

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India N.R. Congress (NDA)	34.60%	+34.60	1	+1
Indian National Congress	26.3%	-23.16%	0	-1
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	17.93%	+17.93%	0	0

Punjab (13)

2	4	4	3
BJP	SAD	AAP	INC

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	33.10%	-12.13	3	-5
Shiromani Akali Dal	20.30%	-13.55%	4	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	8.70%	-1.36	2	+1
Aam Aadmi Party	30.40%	+30.40%	4	+4

Rajasthan (25)

25

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	50.90%	+7.71	25	+21
Indian National Congress	30.40%	-16.79	0	-20

Sikkim (1)

1

SDF

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Sikkim Democratic Front	53.00%	-13.30	1	0
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	39.50%	+39.50%	0	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	2.40%	+0.59	0	0
Indian National Congress	2.30%	-27.26%	0	0

Tamil Nadu (39)

37

AIADMK

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	44.30%	+21.42%	37	+28
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	23.60%	-1.49	0	-18
Bharatiya Janata Party	5.50%		1	+1
Pattali Makkal Katchi	4.40%		1	+1

Telangana (17)

11	2	1	1	1
TRS	INC	BJP	TDP	YSRCP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Telangana Rashtra Samithi	33.90	+7.76	11	+9
Indian National Congress	20.5	-27.45	2	-10
Bharatiya Janata Party	8.50	---	1	+1
Telugu Desam Party	3.10	+4.17	1	-1
YSR Congress Party	2.90	+2.90	1	+1

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1.40	-0.53	1	0

Tripura (2)

2

CPI(M)

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	64.00%	+2.31	2	0
Indian National Congress	15.20%		0	0
Bharatiya Janata Party	5.70%		0	0

Uttar Pradesh (80)

71

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	42.30%	+24.80	71	+61
Samajwadi Party	22.20%	-1.06	5	-22
Bahujan Samaj Party	19.60%	-7.82	0	-16
Indian National Congress	7.50%	-10.75	2	-19
Apna Dal	1.00%		2	+2

Uttarakhand (5)

5

BJP

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Bharatiya Janata Party	55.30%		5	+5

Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
Indian National Congress	34.00%	-9.13	0	-5

West Bengal (42)



Party	Vote share %	Change	Seats won	Changes
All India Trinamool Congress	39.35%	+8.60	34	+15
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	22.71%	-10.1	2	-13
Bharatiya Janata Party	16.84%	+10.90	2	+1
Indian National Congress	9.58%	-3.80	4	-2